

Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 /044 W

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9301

INFO USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 2191

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CH, US

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF NCUSCT REPRESENTATIVE ON PRC FOREIGN TRADE

REF: (A) STATE 042532 (B) PEKING 307

1. CONGEN INFORMED JOHN KAMM, HONG KONG NCUSCT REPRESENTATIVE, OF COUNCIL'S MESSAGE CONTAINED REF (A). KAMM PASSED CONGEN THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE, WHICH HE REQUESTED BE GIVEN TO THE COUNCIL (MEL SEARLES).

2. KAMM DOES NOT FORESEE ANY IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON FOREIGN TRADE ARISING FROM THE CURRENT POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. HE SAYS MANY AMERICANS, BOTH BUYERS AND SELLERS, ARE CURRENTLY TRAVELING IN THE PRC; TRADE OFFICIALS ARE EXTREMELY FRIENDLY AND REASSURING REGARDING THE "INTERNAL" DISPUTE WITHIN THE PARTY.

3. KAMM BELIEVES THERE ARE CERTAIN DIRECTIONS IN WHICH THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN COULD GO (I.E. A RESURGENCE OF DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT THEMES) WHICH COULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO CHINA'S ABILITY TO BOOST EXPORT SUPPLY (PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF AGRICULTURE AND SIDE-LINE PRODUCE). SOME INDICATIONS THAT THE MOVEMENT COULD TAKE THSE DIRECTIONS WERE APPARENT IN MID-1975 AND COULD POSSIBLY HAVE CAUSED SUPPLY PROBLEMS NOTED BY SOME CHINA NATIVE PRODUCTS

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CUSTOMERS.

4. KAMM WILL ELABORATE ON THESE INDICATIONS LATER.
AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, IT IS HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE
CAMPAIGN APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY CONTROLLED
AND CHANNELED INTO THE EDUCATION SPHERE.

5. COMMENT: WE WOULD APPRECIATE EA/PRCM PASSING KAMM'S
IMPRESSIONS TO THE COUNCIL. WE AGREED TO ACT AS
CONDUIT, SINCE WE CONSIDER KAMM TO BE A THOUGHTFUL
OBSERVER OF THE CHINA ECONOMIC SCENE, WITH A GOOD
FEEL AT THE WORKING LEVEL FOR CHINA'S FOREIGN TRADE
PULSE.

6. FYI. KAMM'S SOMEWHAT ELLIPTICAL REFERENCE TO SUPPLY
PROBLEMS FOR NATIVE PRODUCTS CUSTOMERS CONCERNS SHORTAGES
OF SOME KINDS OF ANIMAL PELTS, EVIDENT AT THE JANUARY
FUR FAIR IN PEKING, WHICH HE SPECULATES COULD HAVE BEEN
CAUSED BY EFFORTS TO TIGHTEN RURAL MARKET CONTROLS UNDER
THE DICTATORSHIP CAMPAIGN (SEE 75 HK 13170).
CROSS

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